

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear violation of the equal time requirement for political speech on public airwaves.

While Sinclair maintains the documentary is "news," and therefore exempt from the equal time requirement, this is obviously false. The program is a wholly one-sided exposition, based almost entirely on material presented by the group "Swift Boat Veterans for Peace," a partisan group openly dedicated to putting George W. Bush in the White House. As such, the program is clearly nothing more than an extended political advertisement.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Instead the company chooses to cynically use those public airwaves in a blatant -- and illegal -- attempt to manipulate the political process.

Allowing Sinclair to get away with this would be a mistake. Hopefully you will do the right thing and put a stop to this, or at least demand the company allow equal time for an opposing point of view.

The already-strained credibility of the FCC is on the line, as your non-action could easily be perceived as complicity in a corruption of the democratic process.

Thank you.